REACH HIGHER

LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

SPRING 2022

3 NEW MAJOR PROJECTS

We are excited to announce three new projects aimed at positively impacting students, staff and our community.

READ MORE PAGE 6.

ONLINE AUCTION RESULTS

Thank you to all who helped make the 2022 LEF Online Auction such a huge success.

READ MORE PAGE 2.

Thank you for your continued support!

TRUSTEES

JC Anderson
Leslie Arbanas
Sophie Bauchet
Ludo Beaufils
Kate Beckrow
Zeb Deitrich
Chad Deja
Greg Eding
Janine Harrison
Lori Marciniak
Elizabeth Meeth
Phil Molloy
Kameron Morris
Julia Pechtel
Jennifer Powers
Jim Roberts
Bill Scaletta
Lewis Scott
Heather Valenziano
Lori VonKoenig
Kathleen Wolf

Online Auction Donors

Thank you to all of the individual donors and area businesses who helped make the 2022 LEF Online Auction such a huge success. Your support makes a world of difference for the students, staff and community of Lakeshore Public Schools.

DONORS	84
ITEMS	131
BIDDERS	145
BIDS	584
WINNERS	63

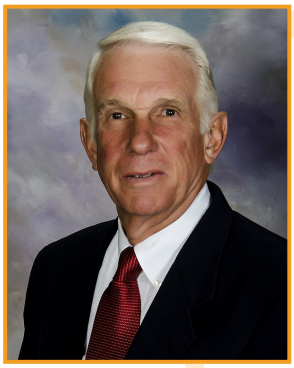
$18,000 REVENUE

221 Main
Alex's Veggies
All Star Family Chiropractic
Applebee's
Baguette de France
Bank of America
Berrien County
Bill Scaletta
Bit of Swiss
Bob and Janine Harrison
bread+bar by Bit of Swiss
Bridgman Family Dental Care
Candlestick Maker
Chateau Chantal
Coho Bob's Sportfishing Charters
Cracker Barrel
Culinary Cottage
Curious Kids' Museum
Dr. John Marohn
- Great Lakes Eye Care
Fanatics
Friends of LEF
Gallery on the Alley
Gloria Ender
Grande Mere Inn
Gravity Winery
Harbor Shores Golf Club
Hartlines Garden Center
Hesston Steam Museum
Hoopla Frozen Yogurt
Indian Lake Hills
Infusco Coffee Roasters
JC and Nancy Anderson
Juday Creek Golf Course
Kilwins
Lake Michigan Hills
LakeHouse Restaurant
Lakeshore Public Schools
Lakeshore Public Schools
- Superintendent Greg Eding
Lemon Creek Winery and Vineyards
Lakeshore High School
- CTE Program
Lakeshore High School Store/DECA
Lighthouse Wine Shop
Lori Marciniak
Lisa Welch
M Squared Modern Hair
M&W Tire
Mari Maloney
Martin's Supermarket
Mason Jar Cafe
Matt Mantei
Melanie Easley at Allure Salon
Modern Day Knights
Olive Cart
Outdoor Adventure Center
- DNR - Detroit
Papa Vino's Mishawaka
Peat's Cider Social
PGA
Red Coach Donuts
Reflections Medical Spa
Rick Waning
Santaniello's Restaurant
Schu's Grill and Bar
Shelley Shell at Allure Salon
Sill Laser
Silver Beach Pizza
Silver Harbor Brewing Company
Soft Touch Car Wash
Sophia's
Sophie and Eric Bauchet
Southshore Health and Racquet Club
SPGA
State Street Meats
Subway
Taylor Rental
The Buck Burgers & Brew
Tosi's
Turquoise Top Hat
Kristy, Tina, and Vonnie at Reva' Salon and Spa
Watermark Brewing Company
Welch Center for Wine and Viticulture
Wells Fargo
Whirlpool Corporation

3 Projects on the Horizon

Technology Refresh, New Teacher Recruitment and Professional Development

In the nine years as Chairman of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation, we have committed to fund several multi-year, major projects and numerous annual grants.



J.C. Anderson, Chairman

In each case, we attempt to select projects that will have significant and immediate impact on our student's learning experience. I personally have felt very good about what we have been able to accomplish in the past nine years with these projects. I continue to feel great about our progress.

LEF strives to create a collaborative effort between Superintendent Eding, the school administration and the Lakeshore Board of Education when assessing the opportunities that can deliver the greatest impact on the overall educational experience.

We faced a few challenges as we tried to determine where to make our next project investment. As we transitioned superintendents from Phil Freeman to Greg Eding, continued Covid implications along with recent school threats made it difficult to develop a list of projects that could be considered for funding.

Although the process took a bit longer than anticipated, we are excited to announce that the LEF board approved three projects that were submitted by Superintendent Eding.

We have committed to funding $720,000 for an Elementary Technology Refresh, New Teacher Recruitment and Professional Development for our current staff.

These projects are in addition to our regular grants. More information about each of these major projects is contained within this newsletter.

I also continue to feel great about the collaboration between our LEF board and the administration as we discussed the project options that were presented as considerations. During the discussions, comments were made including:

- *"The PLC (Professional Learning Communities) conference is the single best educational conference that an educator can go to."*
- *"How fast can we get 100% of our teachers/administration to attend the training?"*
- *"We now, finally and effectively, can get to a 1:1 technology in our elementary schools."*
- *"Our already established "Late Start Wednesdays" provide the forum for the implementation of the PLC methodology."*
- *"Every student and every teacher will be impacted thus supporting our DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) guidelines."*
- *"We want to recruit the best teachers and this grant money will set us apart from other districts."*
- *"We cannot afford to NOT do all three of these projects now!"*

With this type of positive discussion, we concluded that bundling these three major projects will really set the Lakeshore district apart from the others. We feel that the collective impact of these projects will be a minimum improvement of 3% (most likely 5%-10%) in the various student test scores (M-STEP, PSAT, NWEA, SAT). Superintendent Eding has indicated that this is his most

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LEF LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

Excellent schools are the foundation of excellent communities. When you invest in Lakeshore Public Schools through the LEF, you are investing in the quality of life in our community both today and tomorrow.

Not Your Average Advocate

CURTIS PARTEE, AT-RISK COORDINATOR/STUDENT ADVOCATE

Curtis Partee
PHOTO BY: Olivia Graffineus, Lakeshore Student

Who couldn't use a champion, supporter, protector or proponent looking out for their best interests?

Curtis Partee serves as Lakeshore High School's At-Risk Coordinator or Student Advocate. As a Student Advocate, Mr. Partee's main focus is to help any student who may be at risk of not graduating, to be able to wear that highly coveted cap and gown and carry a diploma that will open the doors to a brighter future.

Graduation is one of the many causes Mr. Partee champions.

If there is a student who needs a little extra help or an adult to listen to them, he's there. Mr. Partee is well known for his ability to spark a conversation with just about anyone. He's an active listener and excellent relationship builder. Partee meets people where they are at, without judgment of their choices, boosting their confidence and providing them with a focus to meet their goals - whatever they may be.

But Mr. Partee is not your average high school advocate that learned about their job in a classroom or out of a book. In fact, Mr. Partee has a lot in common with many of the students he works with, having grown up experiencing hard times of his own. He often found that the focus of school was not easy. Thinking that he would end up working in a school setting was something Mr. Partee had never imagined.

Although Partee had the dream of playing football, an injury caused him to take another path. Mr. Partee joined the Marines, which at the time he felt was the best option. Unfortunately an injury there led to his release.

When Mr. Partee was trying to figure out his own path, it always seemed to lead him back to positions focused on helping youth. Partee spent many years working at the Berrien County Juvenile Center before his interest in tennis led to a coaching position and a job as the In-School Suspension Supervisor at Dowagiac Union High School. That is also where Mr. Partee met a guy who would become an avid supporter of his work - Greg Younger.

Throughout his personal journey, Mr. Partee had many starts and stops with college, but he knew that he needed a degree in order to achieve the personal advancements he wanted for himself and his family. It wasn't an easy path, but Partee persevered, working to support his family during the day and taking college classes at night.

Mr. Partee has some words of wisdom based on his own experiences, "If at all possible, complete your college education before life takes you in a different direction. Once I had my degree, I had so many more opportunities and promotions."

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25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
-- MUSICAL COMEDY

This past February, Lakeshore elementary, middle and high school students took the stage to participate in the *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

The musical comedy, featuring music by William Finn and the book by Rachel Sheinkin, centers on the story of how middle school students find joy competing in a regional spelling bee.

Students and community members were treated to three productions of the musical in the recently renovated Lakeshore High School Auditorium. $660,000 in improvements and updates were made to the Auditorium and connecting lobby through a major project grant funded through the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation.

Lakeshore High School Vocal Music and Music Theory Director, David Gailey, says shows like these would not be possible without the generosity of donors who support the mission of the LEF. Each year the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation awards his department $10,000 as part of a recurring grant to help support fine arts educational programs for Lakeshore Public School students.

PHOTOS BY: Grace deBest

"The recurring grant is an integral part of every Lakeshore High School musical production," said Gailey. "Its presence grants us resources, flexibility and the freedom to dream a bit bigger. Each year dozens of student experiences are improved by the LEF recurring grant. We are a better community for it."

MAJOR PROJECT INVESTMENT

$720,000

Our schools are experiencing many of the same issues that today's businesses are facing.

Businesses are struggling to recruit new hires, retain current employees and provide development opportunities to ensure future readiness. Lakeshore Public Schools are also dealing with similar issues, which is why the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation has committed to raise funds that deliver projects to address these challenges while positively impacting students, staff and our community.

In 2022, LEF will begin supporting three, new major projects: Technology Refresh for our elementary students, New Teacher Recruitment and Current Staff Development through Professional Learning Communities – PLC's.

TECHNOLOGY REFRESH

Elementary students

CHALLENGE:

The pace of change of technology is daunting. Our elementary student technology has not been upgraded since 2017. Without new technology our children run the risk of falling behind.

SOLUTION:

LEF will fund 1:1 technology for all students K – 5th grade, including Young 5's. Touchscreen Chromebooks will provide a richer learning experience with improved academic achievement while preparing our students for future success.

$345,000 Investment

NEW TEACHER RECRUITMENT

New hires

CHALLENGE:

The number of people entering the teaching profession has dropped drastically. Lakeshore needs to position ourselves uniquely to be able to recruit new, top quality educators.

SOLUTION:

LEF will fund a new teacher recruitment grant that will provide up to $10,000 in incentives for new hires. This program will differentiate Lakeshore from other schools, improving our opportunity to recruit the best teachers into our school district.

$150,000 Investment

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For current staff

CHALLENGE:

Continuous learning among our educators is critical. We had established late-start Wednesdays to allow the staff to collaborate, but we haven't given them the ongoing training to help make the best use of this time.

SOLUTION:

LEF will fund training for all staff in support of PLC's – Professional Learning Communities. The outcome of this grant will result in continuous job-embedded training for educators and improved learning for all students, every day.

$225,000 Investment

CONTRIBUTION FORM

Name of Contributor(s):

_____

Address/City/State:

_____

Phone (Home): _____
Phone (Work): _____
Phone (Cell): _____
Email: _____

Are you a Lakeshore graduate?
☐ YES ☐ NO
If YES, what year did you graduate?
_____

Will your employer match this contribution? ☐ YES ☐ NO

My contribution amount: $_____

Optional:
My gift is in honor/memory of:

_____

Address/City/State:

_____

SEND FORM AND CONTRIBUTION TO:

Lakeshore Excellence Foundation
5771 Cleveland Avenue,
Stevensville, MI 49127

Please make checks payable to Lakeshore Excellence Foundation.

The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation was established in 1997 as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors made up of local community members. Your donation to the foundation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

CHAIRMAN ANDERSON

Continued from PAGE 3.

strategic educational initiative and we are pleased to be able to support his focus.

As your Chairman, I am more excited and positive about these projects than any in the past nine years!

We all want the very best for our students, and this project portfolio will position Lakeshore at the very top of the numerous surveys that are taken regarding the "best" schools in the state. Our district will be able to recruit better new hires, retain current employees while providing development opportunities, and better ensure student readiness for the future.

I'm sure that you noticed in the discussion above, I talked about the LEF doing ***this or that***. I hope that you understand that the LEF is only as good as you, our financial supporters, are in providing for the funding of these various projects. This community has been a very "giving" community in the past with our numerous projects. Today, we ask for your continued support as we initiate the fundraising for our largest commitment ever ... $720,000. Investing in our children and their education is one of the most important investments we can make.

Thank you for your interest, and I hope that you share my excitement regarding this portfolio of critical projects. Please consider making a tax deductible contribution from your limited discretionary income to support these critical projects that will positively impact every student, staff member and our surrounding community.

Sincerely,
J.C. Anderson, LEF Board Chairman

NOT YOUR AVERAGE ADVOCATE

Continued from PAGE 4.

It was one of these opportunities that brought Mr. Partee to Lakeshore High School, working once again with Mr. Younger. Mr. Partee brings his education and life experiences to our students, making a difference in their lives one relationship at a time.

When asked what advice he'd like to convey to the students he sees every day at Lakeshore, Mr. Partee said, "I think the most important thing is to know yourself. It's important to know your strengths and weaknesses, who you can trust and most importantly, that you are able to trust yourself." Partee believes in building relationships with students, his peers and in the community.

Those who know Mr. Partee are eager to share kind words. Whether it's the fact that students see him as "the fun guy in the cafeteria" or his co-workers remarking about his genuineness and thoughtfulness, it's clear that Mr. Partee is a special person and valuable to our school district. Mr. Younger, who has known him for many years, shares that Partee "is very supportive of students within the school day but also outside of the classroom at their extracurricular activities. He's always there to cheer them on and then follows up at school the next day, continually building relationships and supporting them as a whole person."

We are grateful to Mr. Partee and the way he puts his whole heart into the work he does at Lakeshore High School. Please feel free to share stories of your positive interactions with Mr. Partee on our LEF Facebook page.

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Do you shop on Amazon.com? Did you know you can buy the exact same items, at the same price, and LEF will receive a percentage of your sale?

Simply go to Smile.Amazon.com and choose Lakeshore Excellence Foundation as your charitable organization.

MAKE YOUR ONLINE SHOPPING COUNT!

It's as simple as going to:

smile.amazon.com

LAKESHORE Alumni

WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH

1. Join the Lakeshore High School Alumni Facebook Group:
   Search for "Lakeshore High School Alumni" and Join the Group
2. Register on the LEF website for email updates:
   lefonline.org/alumni/get-registered

If you graduated from Lakeshore High School, this is a great way to stay in touch!

LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund is our long-term strategy to funding the LEF mission of learning for generations to come.

Annually, the LEF Board evaluates the health of the fund, makes contributions based on giving and project needs, and reinvests the earned interest. If you are interested in learning more about the Endowment Fund, please contact J.C. Anderson at (269) 921-2513 or email at anderjcna@gmail.com.

THE FACTS

The state funding for public schools in Michigan continues to be a challenge and Lakeshore is in the bottom 25% in funding. Yes, 75% of Michigan public school districts receive more state funding on a revenue per student basis!

SIX WAYS TO GIVE

1. Donate conveniently online
2. Swing those clubs
3. Become a Lakeshore Lancer Leader
4. Give us your two cents
5. Endowment Fund
6. Planned Giving

LEF LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

Learn more about LEF

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Contact our Chairman, J.C. Anderson (anderjcna@gmail.com)